

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01017 01 OF 02 301544Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 OES-03 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 IO-10 VO-03 SCA-01 /095 W

----- 109384

R 301500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1017

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PRAGUE

BEGIN SUMMARY: OUR FRIENDS AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY TELL US THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN -- MEANING THAT THE MAIN THING WAS HAVING A FREINDLY FIRST VISIT BY AN ASUTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHICH ISNOT BAD IN ITSELF. BOTH SIDES FELT THE VISIT WAS SUEFUL AND TIMELY, A PROPE SIGNAL THAT RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY SINCE THE TIME ONLY TWO YEARS AGO WHEN TRAGIC BORDER INCIDENTS MARKED THE LOWEST POINT IN CSSR-AUSTRIAN TIES IN YEARS. SEVERAL BILATERAL ISSUES WERE RAISED; SOME WERE RESOLVED. BIELKA LEFT OVERWHELMED WITH THE HOSPITALITY AND CORDIALITY PROFFERED HIM BY HIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01017 01 OF 02 301544Z

HOSTS, LEAVING BEHIND AN AUSTRIAN EMBASSY STAFF EQUALLY

IMPRESSED, AND HOPEFUL THAT POSITIVE CAST IN BILATERAL
TIES CAN BE MAINTAINED. END SUMMARY

1. SPECIFICALLY, ON BILATERALS, BIELKA AND CHNOUPEK
EXCHANGED RATIFICATION INSTRUMENTS BRINGING INTO FORCE
THE AUSTRIAN/CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER ADJUSTMENT COMMISSION,
PROVIDED FOR IN THE DECEMBER, 1973 AGREEMENT. BOTH SIDES
NOTED WITH DISTINCT PLEASURE THAT THE BORDER INCIDENTS
COMMISSION, ALSO DATING FROM DECEMBER, 1973, AND IN
BUSINESS SINCE THEN, IN FACT HAS HAD NOTHING TO DO
LATELY. THE AUSTRIANS AND CZECHS HAVE AGREED TO CREATE
A JOINT MIXED COMMISSION, TO BE HEADED TITULARLY BY A
CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND BY EITHER THE
AUSTRIAN MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL OR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
CHIEF. THE AUSTRIANS EXPECT THE COMMISSION, THE STAFFING
FOR WHICH IS YET TO BE FLESHED OUT IN DETAIL, TO BE THE
CONTINUING FORUM FOR WORKING OUT A SERIES OF TECHNICAL BILATERAL
AGREEMENTS, E.G. ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL,
TRUCKING SPECIFICATIONS.

2. THE AUSTRIANS EXPECTED THE CZECHS TO SUGGEST A
CULTURAL AGREEMENT; THE CZECHS EXPECTED THE AUSTRIANS TO
RECEIVE IT ONLY FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. THAT IS WHAT
HAPPENED. WITH A GUARANTEED INTERESTED AUDIENCE
WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE AUSTRIANS FEEL THAT ANY
CULTURAL AGREEMENT MUST CONTAIN SUBSTANTIAL GUARANTEES
OF HIGH-PROFILE AUSTRIAN EXPOSURE IN SCIENTIFIC
ORGANIZATIONS, THE ARTS, THE UNIVERSITIES, AND TO THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLIC -- JUST THE SORT OF OPENING TO
"CORRUPTING WESTERN BOURGEOIS INFLUENCES" WHICH SENDS
SHIVERS UP KSC PRESIDUM SPINES. ACULTURAL AGREEMENT,
THEREFORE, WILL BE LONG IN COMING.

3. PREDICTABLY, THE CZECHS PRESENTED A VERY LONG,
DETAILED DRAFT COMMUNIQUE, KNOWING THAT BIELKA PREFERRED
HAVING NONE. THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DECIDED
RIGHT OFF THAT IT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE TO HAMMER AWAY
AT WHOLE PARAGRAPHS; THEREFORE, THE MORE OFFENSIVE
ASPECTS -- SUCH AS A REFERENCE TO U.S. VIOLATIONS OF
THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA -- WERE EXCISED.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01017 01 OF 02 301544Z

4. BIEKA MAINTAINED HIS COOL FRIDAY WHEN THE CZECH
NEWS SERCIE (CTK) AND RUDE PRAVO GRAVELY MISQUOTED HIS
THURSDAY STATEMENT ON CSCE. HE HAD SAID THEN THAT IT
WOULD BE DESIABLE FOR PHASE III TO COMMENCE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, PERHAPS IN THE SUMMER. HE THEN HAD OBSERVED,
AS A PROBLEMATIC ASIDE, THAT IF THE BREZHNEV JUNE 30
SUGGESTION FOR PHASE II WERE TO BE MET, TECHNICALITIES

AND LOGISTICS OF BRINGING IT ABOUT DICTATED AN END TO
PHASE II LATE IN MAY OR EARLY IN JUNE. IT'S THAT "ASIDE"
THAT CTK PLAYED UP TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL ELSE. THE
AUSTRIANS WAITED FOR THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE TO GET THE
MATTER STRAIGHT-- WHICH IT DID.

5. BIELKA STRESSED TO CHNOUPEK THAT IT WAS THE PROPITIOUS
POLITICAL TIME FOR THE AUSTRIAN MAN-IN-THE-STREET TO
SEE SOME TANGIBLE EFFECT OF IMPROVED AUSTRIAN-CS
RELATIONS. IN THIS RESPECT, NOTING TO CHNOUPEK WITH
PLEASURE THAT ONE OR TWO DIVIDED FAMILIES' CASES WHICH
HAD RECEIVED INORDINATE PUBLICITY IN AUSTRIA WERE
RESOLVED FAVORABLY BY THE CZECHS, BIELKA PROPOSED
SPECIFICALLY TO CHNOUPKE THAT OTHER CASES MIGHT BE
RESOLVED. THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS A BACKLOG OF
OVER A THOUSAND; PERHAPS LESS THAN TEN PERCENT ARE TRULY
HUMANITARIAN, HOWEVER. BIELKA ASKED THAT MORE BORDER
CROSSINGS BE OPENED AND THAT THE CZECHS ALLOW WEEKEND
TRIPS BY AUSTRIANS INTO THE CSSR WITHOUT VISAS, AND
CS VISAS TO BE ISSUED AT THE BORDER, AS DO THE HUNGARIANS
FOR AUSTRIAN TRAVELERS. (AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAOXXKOKBSM ININGER--TELLS
US BOTH COUNTRIES NOW ALLOW DIPLOMATS TO ENTER WITHOUT VISAS
AND WILL DO THE SAME SHORTLY FOR BEARERS
OF EQUIVALENT U.S. OFFICIAL PASSPORTS.)
HE ALSO SAID HUNGARIANS MAY BACK OFF FROM THE WEEKEND
NO-VISA ENTRY, IN FORCE APPARENTLY FOR SEVERAL YEARS
ALREADY. IT SEEMS AUSTRIANS ARE FLOODING LIMITED
HUNGARIAN TOURIST FACILITIES.)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01017 02 OF 02 301551Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 OES-03 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 IO-10 VO-03 SCA-01 /095 W

----- 109452

R 301500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SPOHIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 USE PRAGUE 1017

6. MUCH TIME WAS GIVEN OVER TO TALKS ABOUT BILATERAL TRADE. THE AUSTRIANS FEEL THE TWO ECONOMIES ARE COMPLEMENTARY; BOTH COUNTRIES LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUED, INCREASED UPTURN IN TRADE. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE MIXED COMMISSION; WITH THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT OUT OF THE WAY, NEITHER COUNTRY SEES ANY NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MAJOR AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE TRADE.

7. THE CALL ON HUSAK WAS ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN. IT CAME ABOUT, FINALLY, BUT NOT WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES INCLUDING AN HOUR AND A HALF WAIT TO SEE HIM. THE MEETING ITSELF WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL, WITH HUSAK IN GOOD FORM AND GOOD SPIRITS. FONMIN CHNOUPEK WAS A CHARMING HOST THROUGHOUT BIELKA'S STAY, AS WERE ALL CSSR OFFICIALS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01017 02 OF 02 301551Z

INVOLVED IN THE VISIT. THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF DANCING (LIKE A GOOD SLOVAK, CHNOUPEK DANCED HUNGARIAN DANCES WITH BIELKA'S WIFE) AND DRINKING.

8. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO THEIR OTHER CAPITALIST NEIGHBOR, THE FRG, WITH WHOM CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS WAGING A SOMEWHAT CRITICAL PUBLIC MONOLOGUE, THE CZECHS HAVE EMPHASIZED BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THEIR ACUTE AWARENESS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM OF IMPROVED RELATIONS -- AND THE LID ON NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA OUTBURSTS. THIS MARKS A CHANGE: LAST YEAR, WHEN IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, CZECHOSLOVAKIA GRANDLY ANNOUNCED IN ITS PRESS THE LATEST CAPITALIST "ECONOMIC CRISIS," AUSTRIA AND THE FRG WERE FAVORITE WHIPPING HORSES. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NARY A MENTION OF AUSTRIA IN NEGATIVE TERMS -- AND FOR AWHILE THEY HAD BEEN CRITICAL INDEED -- FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW. OUR CONTACTS AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY, WHO FELT IT WAS HIGH TIME FOR THE FIRST VISIT BY AN AUSTRIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER TO PRAGUE SINCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA EMERGED IN 1918 AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, SIMPLY WERE BOWLED OVER BY THE HOSPITALITY GENERATED FOR BIELKA. THEY THINK IT WAS GENUINE AND SIGNIFICANT, SIGNALLING BOTH THAT THE CZECHS HAVE BEEN ITCHING TO LAY TO REST YEARS OF NONPRODUCTIVE RESENTMENT, AND THAT AUSTRIA'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOR WANTS TO EMBARK ON A NONREVERSIBLE COURSE OF COMPLEX, MUTUALLY-PROFITABLE BILATERAL RELATIONS. (WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM SINCERITY OF GOC RECEPTION, WE NOTE THAT, AS WITH VISIT OF DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, BIELKA'S VISIT WAS TRUMPETED AS EVIDENCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S ACCEPTANCE IN WEST, DUBCEK, ET AL, NOTWITHSTANDING.)

9. AUSTRIAN EXPECTATIONS NOW ARE LIMITED: A FEW MORE OPEN BORDER CROSSINGS, PERHAPS SOME ENTRY-WITHOUT-VISA PRIVILEGES FOR TOURISTS, MAYBE SOME PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES OF PARTICULAR MERIT. THE TRADE WILL GO ON BY ITSELF, BUT WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE CZECHS THAN THE AUSTRIANS -- THE LATTER COUNT TRADE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A MERE TWO PERCENT OF TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01017 02 OF 02 301551Z

10. IN SUM, BOTH SIDES PRESENTLY ARE EVALUATING BILATERAL TIES IN A POSITIVE FASHION, AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE MANY DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE. BUT HOPES IN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE THAT THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE THE LOGICAL ONES OF INCREASING HUMAN, COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL ENTITIES WHICH HAVE TOO MUCH IN COMMON -- HISTORICALLY AND NOW -- FOR EITHER TO IGNORE.
PERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750151-1105
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975043/aaaaacmf.tel
Line Count: 260
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PRAGUE BEGIN SUMMARY: OUR FRIENDS AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY TELL
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, AU, (BIELKA, ERICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006